

**MEMORIAL**

OF CERTAIN

**MERCHANT TAILORS OF BOSTON,**

PRAYING THAT

ADDITIONAL DUTY BE IMPOSED

ON

**READY MADE CLOTHING,**

When Imported into the United States.

---

MAY 5, 1828.

Printed by order of the Senate of the United States.

---

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY DUFF GREEN.

1828.



## MEMORIAL.

---

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the  
United States, in Congress assembled;*

This memorial of the undersigned Merchant Tailors of the city of  
Boston,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That, in their opinion, should the tariff bill now pending before Congress, be enacted with its present provisions, it would be of destructive consequence to their business, and give to other branches of industry, a partial and disproportionate encouragement. Your memorialists beg leave to recommend their particular interest in this subject to your further consideration, and to suggest the justice and expediency of affording their trade greater encouragement and protection, than the tariff bill, in its present form, provides. They are urged to address you, by a conviction that the business in which they are engaged, and which affords an honest and respectable support to a very large number of their fellow-citizens, is not only threatened with serious injury, but with entire ruin. Should the provisions of the bill before you be adopted, the business of your memorialists would be immediately ruined, and the large number of persons who depend upon it for support, be entirely deprived of employment, and the enterprise and exertions of the fraternity of artists, to which your memorialists belong, would be discouraged and paralyzed by the hand from which they have a right to claim and expect protection, while foreign interests would be advanced, and foreign artists encouraged and enriched. We come, therefore, to Congress, whom the constitution has appointed the guardians of the equal rights and privileges of the citizens of these United States, and solicit them to dispense to us that portion of governmental assistance which the nature and extent of our business requires, and to which your justice and wisdom may consider us fairly entitled. Your memorialists are enemies to monopoly, however plausible its origin and specious its name—they do not desire it for themselves, and feel compelled, respectfully, to remonstrate against its being granted to others.

Hitherto, your memorialists have been silent in respect of congressional enactments, whose results they were convinced would be decidedly unfavorable to their business. They have witnessed the increase of duty on cloth, while no corresponding additional duty was imposed on ready made clothing: they have seen this virtual invita-

tion held out to foreign artists to increase the importation of the article, on whose manufacture your memorialists have relied chiefly for subsistence, without petitioning for relief. Notwithstanding the laws passed in relation to this subject were likely to injure them, they hoped to be able, by skill, industry, and economy, to compete with foreign artists; and were they not thoroughly persuaded that the passage of the bill now before Congress would take from them all ground of hope, your memorialists would continue to observe unbroken silence. They believe, that the provisions of this bill, when duly examined in a statistical form, will expose its character too palpably to receive the sanction of Congress. Its tendency is, to discourage the endeavors, and repress the exertions, of a very necessary and considerable branch of domestic industry. The existing bill proposes a duty of twenty cents on fabrics not exceeding the value of fifty cents per square yard; of forty cents not exceeding one dollar; of one dollar not exceeding two dollars and fifty cents; and of one dollar and sixty cents when the value of the cloths does not exceed four dollars; and forty-five per cent. ad valorem on all goods valued above four dollars per square yard. By comparing this scale with that by which the duties on ready made clothing have been graduated, the differences appear very important, and the consequences obvious. The duties upon the raw material are fixed at one dollar per yard, while the value may vary from one dollar and one cent, to two dollars and fifty cents. The same cloth, when manufactured into ready made clothing, pays only thirty cents; thus saving seventy cents, or seven-tenths, of cloth not made up. Between cloth valued at two dollars and fifty cents, and under four dollars, the proposed duties are the same; yet when made into clothing, it pays but seventy-five cents; saving half the duties. On cloths above the value of four dollars per square yard, the importer of ready made clothing will save thirty-three and a half per cent., by the proposed bill. By existing laws, the foreign artists obtain an advantage, which operates, to a considerable extent, to the prejudice of your memorialists. Individuals are allowed to import, with themselves, their clothing, free from duty; and it is well known that individuals coming from abroad are in the habit of bringing with them, as their own clothing, clothes for others, which are admitted free from duty; which operates both to defraud the public revenue, and prejudice the American artists. In the present state of easy, constant, and large communication with Great Britain, this practice is attended with no inconsiderable consequences, both to the revenue and to your memorialists. The proximity of Boston to the British provinces would be likely to render the operation of the proposed tariff, in its present form, peculiarly injurious to your memorialists. A merchant tailor, by establishing himself in the neighboring province of New-Brunswick, and connecting himself with a house at Boston, might, from his work-shop in New-Brunswick, furnish clothing for Boston, with little more, if any, inconvenience, than if he in fact resided here. Thus foreign artists and laborers would monopolize the business, not only of manufacturing the material, but of making the garments, for American use, while our own artists and

laborers would be driven from their chosen and appropriate employments, or languish without support.

Your memorialists would not presume to speak particularly of their importance as a class or body of citizens; but trust they may be allowed to say, their business is of indispensable importance and necessity in every improved community; and considered merely with reference to the numbers who derive from it employment and support, there are few callings which can present stronger claims to government for protection, at least.

Your memorialists, furthermore, beg leave to assure you, that they do not address you in the character or with the views of partisans; that they are not the advocates of any particular system of duties; that they speak simply for themselves, and in support of their own interest; and firmly rely on the justice of their cause for a favorable consideration with Congress.







